## **Key Questions**

General Direction. How will the Delta Plan reconcile what otherwise might be conflicting goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem? Inasmuch as the Delta Plan must "promote options for new and improved infrastructure relating to the water conveyance," will the Council acknowledge the need for conveyance and storage investments as envisioned in the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force Strategic Plan? Or will it follow a different path that places a much stronger emphasis on flow measures and demand reduction with a necessarily lessened emphasis on other management tools?

Implementation Tools. How will the Council, in the Delta Reform Act's words, "direct efforts across state agencies" to meet the co-equal goals? Should it take a management approach that organizes state and federal agency actions to be complementary in plan implementation? For local agencies that are in the Delta or that propose a covered action in the Delta, will the Council take an approach that focuses on performance-based outcomes, with assurances and other incentives to achieve statutory and regulatory goals within a framework of accountability? Or will it, assuming it even has such authority, focus on regulatory tools that tell other public entities what to do, with sanctions if they fall short?

**Finance Plan.** What authority does the Council have to formulate a finance plan? Will it propose a finance plan that will be broadly supported by those asked to pay for it, consistent with the beneficiary pays principle, and capable of adjusting to changing circumstances? Or will it seek the adoption of a financing package that is widely opposed by the entities that might be required to contribute funds?

**Bay-Delta Conservation Plan.** What is the Council's role relative to the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan? Assuming the BDCP is consistent with the co-equal goals, will the Delta Plan provide a path that allows the BDCP to meet its water supply and ecosystem goals? Or will the Delta Plan contain policy criteria that are obstacles and constraints that make success less likely for the BDCP?

Water Supply Reliability. How will the Delta Plan provide for "meeting the needs for reasonable and beneficial uses of water?" (Water Code section 85302(d)(1).) Is it intended that the Delta Plan will try to meet the co-equal goals by compelling the state to adapt to continued reductions in available water supplies – whether tributary to or exported from the Delta watershed? Inasmuch as it is the state's policy "to reduce reliance on the Delta in meeting California's future water supply needs," (Water Code section 85021) would a Delta Plan that fails to meet existing needs for reasonable and beneficial uses of water be consistent with the Delta legislation?

Comprehensive Ecosystem Solutions. How will the Delta Plan promote a comprehensive approach that, in the context of the co-equal goals, integrates flow with other measures to promote diverse and biologically appropriate habitats and ecosystem processes and reduce threats and stresses on the Delta ecosystem? Is it intended that the Delta Plan will emphasize only flow-related measures?

Agricultural Economy. How will the Delta Plan promote a long-term, viable agricultural economy throughout California? Would a Delta Plan that puts California on a path where many farms' most viable option will be to stop growing food and fiber be consistent with the Delta legislation?

The Delta as a Place. What tools will best protect and enhance the culture and values of the Delta as we cope with physical changes due to rising sea levels and seismic vulnerability?

Water Quality. How will the Delta Plan promote improved water quality for drinking water and the ecosystem? Will it emphasize new approaches to reduce pollution and improve water quality through Best Management Practices and incentives to reduce pollutant loads? Or will it rely on the current strictly regulatory approach?